

THE 321ST INFANTRY

cattle. No respect had been paid the passenger capacity of the boats. The old adage, "The more, the merrier," is not applicable to every crowded situation. But we realized "C'est la guerre," although we could not say it at that time. The urgent need of men in France made it necessary to estimate a boat's capacity by the standing room a man required, rather than by the number of cubic feet of air and square feet of floor space needed for his health and comfort. This twelve day voyage on these troop ships was a real test of our stomachs, health, patience and morale. The fact that we survived this test with no loss of life, no accident, very little sickness, ravenous appetites and in good spirits, was a fair indication of how the 321st Infantry would meet the supreme test soon to come.

It was our American spirit that overcame in this, as in many future emergencies. There is something very real and vital, and splendid about that intangible and indefinable thing called the "American spirit." It is the most distinguishing characteristic of the American soldier. It is the result of a psychology peculiarly American, the heritage of a free, liberty-loving people who have never known the yoke of bondage. The farther and longer the American soldier is removed from his native haunts, the more freely and truly does his American spirit function. It is what makes him laugh and jest about his own troubles and hardships.